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Hunger/Peace, Angola : A Visit to Angola and Botswana - Africa News Service 1987 ; U.S. Considers Joining Soviets For Angola Relief - Cox News Service ; Mickey Leland Condemns US Policy in Angola - Forward Times 2/28/1987

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2015)

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## A Visit to Angola and Botswana

Our publishing break gave managing editor Reed Kramer a chance to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity for travel last month. He attended the African American Conference of the African American Institute in Gaborone, Botswana, and afterwards visited Angola with a group of seven Americans from the conference, including Rep. Mickey Leland from Houston, who chairs the House Select Committee on Hunger and is immediate past chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. Reed took time out from producing radio reports on his trip to share some of his reflections:

Whether helicoptering to Chevron/Gulf's offshore oil wells in Cabinda or visiting the quiet capital of Bié Province in the central highlands, war is never far away in Angola.

The Americans who work in Cabinda Gulf's self-contained complex producing 195,000 barrels of crude each day, say they never encounter the fighting or the Cuban and Angolan troops that are camped nearby to guard the installation. But the Cabinda airport still bears bomb blast scars from an explosion three months ago. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by UNITA, the anti-government guerrilla group led by Jonas Savimbi that is supplied by South Africa and the United States.

In Bié—which along with neighboring Huambo province has been hardest hit by the eleven-year-old war—the itinerary for visitors includes a tour of one of six orphanages where a growing number of children who lose parents are spending their formative years.

Children are, perhaps, the major victims of the continuing conflict. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has just released a study which concludes that "infant and child mortality in Angola and

Mozambique are now estimated to be the highest in the world."

The UNICEF report calculates that as a result of war and economic destabilization, over 200,000 children who would have survived have instead perished since 1980. Currently, over 360 children are dying each day in Angola—and the deaths of 150 of them can be attributed directly to war, UNICEF says.

Another 600,000 Angolans have been displaced by the fighting; they are dependent for their survival upon governmental assistance and upon international donor organizations for food, clothing, and shelter.

In Kuito, Bié's capital, we were introduced to several dozen men, women and children hospitalized with war wounds. Many have had at least one limb blown off by land mines planted in a field or along a path regularly travelled by peasants.

Government officials say the recent military offensive against UNITA has succeeded in reducing the movement's attacks in this area. A line of defense against South African invasions, established by Cuban and Angolan forces across the south of the country about 150 miles north of Namibia, has now been extended eastward by the Angolan army to the town of Cuito Cuanavale. According to Angolan and Cuban officials, this is helping restrict the flow of materiel to UNITA forces north of the line.

However, an end to the suffering is not easy to imagine. Last year's U.S. decision to assist UNITA has raised the Angolan government's level of distrust towards Washington. Negotiations that were designed to decrease tensions, get the Cubans out and lead to independence for Namibia, Angola's South African-ruled neighbor, have stalemated.

The leadership of SWAPO, the Namib-

ian independence movement headquartered in the Angolan capital Luanda, argues that the time is right for the world community to press for an end to South African control. An independent Namibia would cut UNITA's major supply line from the south, SWAPO officials say.

Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso Van-Dunem (Mbinda) re-iterated to us Angola's position that it wants normal relations with the U.S.

But Cabinda Gulf General Manager Will Lewis doesn't see Washington recognizing the Angolan government any time soon. During a relaxed dinner at his Luanda home, Lewis carefully avoided political pronouncements. But he clearly does not expect the good relations between Chevron and Angola's Marxist leaders to break the diplomatic logjam.

However, Angolan Minister of State for Economic Cooperation Pedro de Castro Van-Dunem believes the involvement of the oil companies and the one billion dollars in trade between the two countries may lead eventually to a "closer association between Angola and America."

### *Award, from page 1*

marketing and distribution tasks of our own show. And virtually all commercial stations want series that are less than two minutes long.

So for the next year at least, our radio efforts will focus on producing special reports for NPR's "All Things Considered" and "Morning Edition" and on putting together a commercial syndicate for a new 60-second version of Afrifacts.

Still, none of us who labored over the production of the half-hour Dateline Africa series has any doubts about the usefulness of the effort. And we know that the terror and exhilaration of the weekly deadlines made us better producers, prepared to meet future assignments with creativity and confidence.

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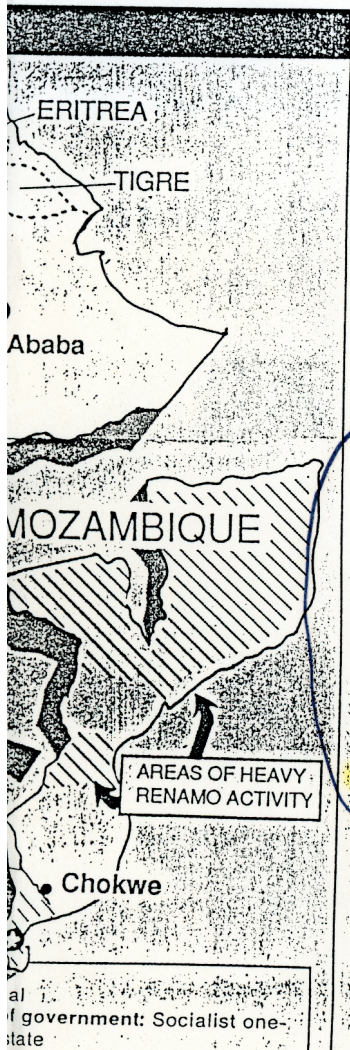
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payments on outstanding loans. encourages people to learn more about of hunger and to take some action. is a modest one, Ms. Richardson said. message was received enthusiastically by dents, said Jake Miller, the political rofessor who coordinated the confer- group of students may take part in "Fast for a World Harvest." set for Nov. 19, will involve partici- und the country. All will give up one meals and donate the money they e spent on food to Oxfam America for development and relief projects.



inces of Mozambique for years.

This is the middle of Gaza province, only 150 miles north of the capital, Maputo. Like most of the country's other provinces, Gaza has been ripped apart by well-armed, well-organized bands of soldiers whose chief objectives are apparently to frighten people, burn huts, steal corn, blow up storehouses, wreck clinics, and, in general, remind everyone that the nominally Marxist government — which took over Mozambique from the Portuguese in 1975 — does not really control the countryside.

The bands are, by most accounts, the guerrillas of RENAMO, an ostensibly anti-communist guerrilla force that many believe is supported by South Africa.

Mozambique has attracted support and assistance from the Soviet bloc, neighboring Zimbabwe, the United States and Britain, among others. But the country is still hungry, disorganized and insecure.

The Limpopo valley around Chokwe once produced as much as 25,000 tons of rice each year. After independence in 1975 the new regime attempted to decolonize, centralize and collectivize agriculture. The policy was a disaster, as even the government admits. Food sup-

ports have relocated poor farmers all up and down the country.

Across the Limpopo from Chokwe, 1,500 dislocated people have settled near the village of 7th of April. Many of the 7th of April "deslocados," as they are called in Portuguese, were clearly malnourished — children with swollen bellies, and pale hair. Families in the village told of bandits attacking their villages, kidnapping relatives, killing, burning houses, stealing cattle.

They said they had food now, but needed plows. They said they wanted tractors, too. But a European aid worker listened rather gloomily to this request. Tractors don't last long in Mozambique these days. No parts, no fuel, no mechanics.

Shortly after 7:30 on another morning, the visitors came to another camp where a group of 66 people had settled three days earlier.

Their cattle had been stolen, said their leader, a man named Simao Matuassee. Some of their relatives had been kidnapped, others killed.

As Matuassee was speaking, the sound of gunfire could be heard across the river, near the village called 7th of April. None of the Mozambicans appeared to notice.

## U.S. Considers Joining Soviets For Angola Relief

Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is considering a proposal that would create a joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. effort to feed more than a million hungry Angolans in that civil war-ravaged African nation, according to Texas congressman Mickey Leland.

If the food aid plan works, it could be linked to peace negotiations in Angola, including the pull-out of Cuban fighting forces there,

Leland said. The Democrat, who heads the House Select Committee on Hunger, said Chester A. Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, made the proposal in mid-October.

Leland said a joint American-Soviet food aid plan in Angola — where between 1.7 and 4.5 million war-weary residents are suffering from serious malnutrition — could be linked to a Soviet-backed peace plan that "the administration is very anxious to make come true."

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

The organizations listed below have relief or development programs in one or more of the three countries featured in this month's World Focus. For more information, contact them directly, using the addresses or phone numbers listed. The countries where each agency works are indicated by (A) for Angola, (M) for Mozambique, and (Z) for Zimbabwe.



# Mickey Leland Condemns US Policy In Angola

BY EDWENDT

Decrying the "horrors of war," Congressman Mickey Leland warns that the Reagan Administration is "building up" the same kind of military involvement in Angola that it has in Nicaragua.

Leland recently spent several days in Angola during a trip to Botswana to observe the results of U.S. sanctions on South Africa. He said the trip showed him "first hand" what is really happening in southern Africa. "Having gone there," said Leland, "I saw the horrors of war."

"Angola has been independent for 11 years now, but has been at war for 11 years." Leland says he witnessed "kids' legs...blown off because South Africa had mined the farms there."

**PORTUGAL OFFERED INDEPENDENCE TO Angola** in 1974. Violence between the National Front, based in Zaire, the Russian-backed Popular Movement, and the National Union, backed by South Africa and the U.S. killed thousands of

Blacks, drove most whites out of the country, and brought about economic ruin. Cuban troops and Soviet aid helped the Popular Movement win much of the country after independence on Nov. 11, 1975. South African troops invaded the southern Angolan border on June 7, 1981, occupying several towns.

"The people in Angola are saying why won't these people fight fair," said Leland. "If they want a war, then fight a war. Don't kill kids, don't dismember the kids the way that they are doing."

**"THE HOSPITALS ARE FULL** of kids with legs, and arms, and half of their bodies blown off. It was one of the saddest things that I'd seen since I had gone to Ethiopia in 1984."

"We are building up, in our country, the same type of involvement in Angola that we have in Nicaragua. And yet the people of Angola are not hostile to the American people in any fashion, in any way."

Leland said he became "overcome" with emotion after touring a museum on slave trade in Angola.

**"IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE** and spiritual experience for me, and I had to go outside and reflect on what the hell was going on. Then I started thinking about the fact that not only did that happen then, but we, in the United States, in our government, this administration, is helping destroy Black people in Africa. And we've got the audacity to challenge the Cubans for being in Angola."

"I'm glad that the Cubans are in Angola," declared Leland. "If the Cuban troops were not in Angola, the South Africans and UNITA would destroy literally hundreds of thousands of people, their own

citizens, by the way."

UNITA is the acronym for National Union for Total Independence, and is a rebel group headed by Jonas Savimbi. The rebels are fighting to overthrow the government with \$15 million in covert military assistance provided by the CIA.

"The Cubans by the way, are not just there in military force," said Leland. "When the Cubans got there no doctors were in Angola, now they've got 400 doctors in Angola, as I understand it. They've got teachers over there."

"Where are our teachers? Where are our doctors?" Leland asked.

**"WHAT WE'RE DOING IS** sending guns and military personnel to advise the Angolans how to destroy people over there."

"I started thinking about all of that in front of that slavery museum. I thought about the horror of what we are engaged in."

Leland said he intends to hold a conference in Washington, in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, "on just what's happening in the whole of Southern Africa."

**"HOPEFULLY, WE ARE GOING** to have a full, comprehensive review on what's happening to Black people in southern Africa."

Leland says the strife in southern Africa is reflective of "what's happening all over Africa."

"Africa is suffering tremendously," the 18th District Congressman stressed, "because of the lack of sensitivity on the part of this government." He said that suffering is compounded by the "incredible destructor" the Reagan Administration has "participated in to destroy our

brothers and sisters in Africa."

"I've got so much caught up in me that I'm afraid that I'm going to get hit by a truck, or something is going to happen to

me, and the people are not going to have the full benefit of my full knowledge and feelings about all that I have seen and experienced in this world, especially as it relates to Africa."

PRESS CLIPS

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Forward Times  
Houston, Texas

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CONGRESSMAN MICKEY LELAND.